HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL- ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

HORSMONDEN HORSE FAIR 2026

The September Horse Fair appeared to run smoothly again this year, with the village green generally kept tidy throughout the event. There was some clearing up to do afterwards, but the organisers were on hand to deal with this and worked together to ensure that the green was left in good order.

The Horse Fair is an important part of Horsmonden's history and traditions, and we would like to thank the organisers, participants and local residents for their co-operation in helping this historic event run smoothly.

If you would like to plan an event on the village green, please contact the Clerk, who can advise on the procedure for arranging the use of the Heath for events.

NEW VILLAGE HALL CONSULTATION

We are pleased to announce that the Parish Council have recently engaged consultants to carry out a parish-wide consultation on the potential development of a new village hall.

We have put a great deal of work into getting this right from the outset, as it is important that any future village hall is a space residents genuinely want and one that meets the needs of our community.

It is still very early days, but we look forward to sharing more information and opportunities to get involved in due course.

Watch this space!

VEHICLES WAITING/PARKING ON GREEN ROAD

We would like to ask all residents and visitors to please avoid stopping, waiting or parking directly outside the pharmacy on Green Road, even for a short time. Vehicles stopping in this location can completely block Green Road, preventing other vehicles from passing and can also obstruct access to the village green gate opposite the pharmacy. Please help by keeping this area clear at all times to ensure safe access for residents, visitors and emergency vehicles.

We do appreciate that collecting prescriptions or making a quick stop can seem harmless, but even a brief obstruction can create difficulties for other road users, pedestrians and those who need access to the Village Green.

Thank you for your consideration and for helping to keep our village safe, accessible and moving smoothly for everyone.

STREET LIGHTS

The Parish owns more than 40 street lights around the village which require regular checks and repair. Now that the nights are drawing in, please contact us if you notice a street light that is not working and we will report it to our maintenance engineers for investigation.

ROAD WORKS

There have been quite a number of road closures recently. It is great that works are being carried out but we get very little notice to allow us to advertise them. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages and we will share the information as quickly as we can.

SPEEDWATCH – CAN YOU HELP?

Speedwatch is a community-based scheme where volunteers record the speed of passing vehicles in the area where they live. Around 90% of vehicles observed once by Speedwatch volunteers are not seen speeding again in the following 12 months.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Martin Drinkwater who has coordinated the group with great commitment and has now stepped down from the role after many years of dedicated service.

The group is now looking for a new coordinator to take over this important position, as well as additional volunteers to support ongoing sessions.

If you would be interested in becoming the new coordinator or joining the volunteer team to help reduce speeding in the area, please contact the Parish Office on 01892 724989 or email deputyclerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk.

HORSMONDEN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

Horsmonden Parish Council are starting the process of updating their Emergency Plan and are inviting local residents to join the Village Response Team - a group of volunteers ready to support the community during emergencies.

In situations such as severe weather, flooding, power cuts, or other major incidents, team members help with:

- Local communication and information sharing
- Practical assistance to residents
- Supporting vulnerable members of the community

If you would like to be part of this important initiative and help your neighbours in times of need, the Parish Council would love to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Office on 01892 724989 or via email deputyclerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk.

REPORTING A PROBLEM ON A ROAD, PAVEMENT OR A FOOTPATH

If you notice any issues such as potholes, drainage problems or overgrown vegetation you can report directly to Kent Count Council here: https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

If you notice any problems on a public right of way such as broken stiles, fallen trees or dangerous path surfaces you can report directly to Kent County Council here: https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way

STAY INFORMED ABOUT LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS FROM HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL

To receive our updates, simply register your email address and confirm your agreement with our Privacy Notice by scanning the QR code below:

SOME USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

NHS: 111
Kent Highways Service: 03000 418181
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council: 01892 526121
Environment Agency 24-hour Flood line: 08459 881188
Emergencies only: 999
Non-emergency Police Line: 101
UK Power Networks – Power cut: 0800 31 63 105 on a landline or 0333 32 32 105 (if calling from a mobile)